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Message Text

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17
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

EB-07 AID-05 /069 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RSBARRETT-L/HR:CRUNYON:NB
APPROVED BY AF:TSEELYE
AF:DBOLEN
D/HA:RPALMER
NSC:AMB.SMITH
AF/I:JWHITING (INFO)
P - MR. HABIB
S/S - LREDDY
---------- 111967
R 210236Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 233456

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:SHUM, PINS

SUBJECT: APPROACH TO PMG ON POLITICAL DETAINEES

1. IN VIEW OF RECENT HIGH LEVEL INTEREST IN ETHIOPIAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION (ANTHONY EDEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT, CLARK SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS) WE BELIEVE TIME IS NOW APPROPRIATE TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT ONCE AGAIN WITH PMG. ACCORDINGLY YOU SHOULD TAKE NEXT OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS USG'S CONCERNS TO PMG. WE LEAVE LEVEL AND MANNER OF APPROACH TO YOUR JUDGMENT

2. YOUR APPROACH SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
FACT WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH PMG;
OUR GRATIFICATION AT THE RECENT RELEASE OF SOME PRISONERS;
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OUR HOPE THAT IT WILL SOON BE POSSIBLE FOR THE PMG TO

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EFFECT FURTHER RELEASES, ESPECIALLY OF THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN; OUR CONCERN OVER REPORTS THAT SOME OF THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE SHOWING SIGNS OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL SUFFERING AS A RESULT OF THEIR IMPRISONMENT; OUR BELIEF THAT ALL PRISONERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE RELEASED OR PROMPTLY AND FAIRLY TRIED AND IN ANY EVENT TO BE TREATED HUMANELY.

3. YOU MAY IN YOUR DISCRETION ALSO REFER TO INCREASING CONCERN EXPRESSED TO USG OVER HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA AND THE CRITICISM OF USG FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPLY MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO PMG IN VIEW OF REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. THIS IS REFLECTED IN RECENT US LEGISLATION REQUIRING THAT WE PAY CLOSE HEED TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN CONNECTION WITH ECONOMIC AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE. ROBINSON

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